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Know Your LPNs.

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To obtain a profile of the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), questionnaires were mailed in April 1968 to the entire membership of the National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses, totalling 31,318. As of July 1968 there were 10,454 replies of which the first 5,993 or 57.7 percent were analyzed. Some findings were: (1) 10.6 percent of the respondents were in their 20's and 77.4 percent were 40 or more. (2) 61.5 percent were married. (3) The average yearly income was approximately $4,000. (4) 91.3 percent had attended high school and of these 71.2 percent had graduated. (5) 74.3 percent had attended a school of practical nursing and of these 93.8 percent had graduated. (6) 95.4 percent were employed and of these 79.4 percent were employed full time. (7) 65 percent were employed on hospital staffs, 24.2 percent in private duty, 12.6 percent in nursing homes, 5.7 percent in physician's offices, and (8) 87.7 percent desired training in two or three different subjects. (JK)

ED0 33187

KNOW YOUR LPNs

Who They Are

Where They Work

What They Do

A Report of a Recent Study Made by

VT007232

The National Federation
of Licensed Practical Nurses Inc.
250 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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The LPN**

The Key Person in the Future of Nursing

On April 23, 1968, a comprehensive questionnaire was mailed to the entire membership of the National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses, totalling 31,318. As of July 31, 1968, there were 10,454 (33.38%) replies.

The following is an analysis of the first 5,993 replies received from April 30 to May 10, 1968, which is 57.7% of all replies received. We stopped our tabulation of replies at this point, because we found from repeated checkings, that we had reached the point where additional tabulation would not change the pattern. We had obtained the true profile of the LPN in the nursing profession.

There are certain logical conclusions that can be drawn from the tabulated data. The first relates to the age of the LPNs actively engaged in nursing. Seventy seven and four-tenths percent (77.4%) are 40 years of age or older. Other studies show that LPNs remain on the job longer than any other member of the nursing team. It would seem to be logical to assume, therefore, that if maturity and length of service mean anything in nursing, this study indicates that LPNs as a group have tested judgement, stability, dependability and proficiency in the discharge of their duties.

Another conclusion which one can draw from the study is that all LPNs perform a wide variety of nursing functions and are accepted by physicians, registered nurses and hospital officials as experienced and fully qualified peers on the paramedical team.

**Any reference to the title LPN in this study is equivalent to the legal title LVN in California and Texas.

While it is evident from the information received about the academic background of LPNs, that relatively few "went to college," it is noteworthy that 91.3% of the 5,993 respondents attended high school and that 71.2% of them graduated. It is also noteworthy that, of the 91.3% who attended high school, 80.9% attended a school of practical nursing from which 93.3% graduated.

Evidence of the alert, progressive and genuine interest that LPNs have in their profession is their desire for further study and training in special areas of nursing. Eighty seven and seven-tenths percent (87.7%) desire more training in two or three different subjects. Obviously LPNs are true professionals in their dedication, their attitudes and proficiency.

We can conclude that this professional attitude and the great variety of nursing functions which the LPN performs every day are evidence of the confidence that her associates place in her judgement and capability. The LPN is unquestionably a huge resource of competent manpower with which to meet the future health needs of the nation.

The Questions and Answers Follow

"How long have you been a Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse?"

Respondents 5929
No Answer 64
Total 5993

	Numbers	% of those Answering
1 to 11 months	92	1.6
1 to 2 years	837	14.1
3 to 5 years	1093	18.4
6 to 10 years	1479	25.0
11 to 15 years	1134	19.1
16 to 20 years	874	14.7
21 to 25 years	201	3.4
25 years plus	219	3.7
	5929	100.0

"How old are you?"

Respondents 5960
No Answer 33
Total 5993

	Numbers	% of those Answering
Under 30	642	10.6
30 to 39	718	12.0
40 to 49	1527	25.6
50 to 59	2119	35.7
60 or more	954	16.1
	5960	100.0

10.6% of respondent LPNs are in their 20s, whereas 24.8% of employed RNs* are in this age group. Conversely, 77.4% of the LPNs are 40 or more, in contrast to 50.7% of the RNs.

* See "FACTS"

"What is your marital status?"

Respondents 5960
No Answer 33
Total 5993

	Numbers	% of those Answering
Married	3666	61.5
Widowed	875	14.7
Single	821	13.8
Separated or Divorced	598	10.0
	5960	100.0

"How much, approximately, did you earn professionally in 1967?"

Respondents 5629
No Answer 364
Total 5993

	Numbers	% of those Answering
Less than $3000	1402	24.9
$3000 to $3999	1660	29.5
$4000 to $4999	1414	25.1
$5000 to $5999	752	13.4
$6000 to $7499	322	5.7
$7500 or more	79	1.4
	5629	100.0

The average yearly income of all LPNs is approximately $4000. The total income of all LPNs is above $1.3 billions.

"How many years did you attend High School?"

Respondents 5507
No Answer 486
Total 5993

	Numbers	% of those Answering
1 year	234	4.2
2 years	693	12.6
3 years	472	8.6
4 years (did not graduate)	190	3.4
4 years (graduated)	3918	71.2
	5507	100.0

"How many years did you attend Schools of Practical Nursing?"

Respondents 4454
No Answer 1539
Total 5993

	Numbers	% of those Answering
1 year	4266	95.8
2 years	188	4.2
	4454	100.0

"Did you graduate?"

Yes	4181	93.8
No	273	6.2
	4454	100.0

"Do you work full time? Part time?"

Respondents 5719
No Answer 274
Total 5993

	Numbers	% of those Answering
Full Time	4544	79.4
Part Time	1175	20.6
	5719	100.0

"How many hours per week?"

Respondents 5298
No Answer 695
Total 5993

	Numbers	% of those Answering
Under 20 hours	172	3.3
20 to 28 hours	330	6.2
29 to 37 hours	282	5.3
37½ to 45 hours	3757	70.9
46 to 52 hours	286	5.3
53 to 60 hours	359	6.8
Over 60 hours	112	2.2
	5298	100.0

85.2% of all LPNs work 37½ hours to more than 60 hours per week.

"In what areas of practice are you NOW engaged?"

Respondents . . . 5644
No Answer 249
Total 5993

	Numbers	% of those Answering*
Private Duty	1410	24.2
Hospital Staff	3671	65.0
Nursing Home	712	12.6
Public Health	101	1.8
Physician's Office	322	5.7
Administration	84	1.5
Education	36	.6
Mental Health	37	.6
Industrial	15	.2
School Infirmary	21	.3

"Do you SPECIALIZE in any of the following areas?"

Respondents . . . 4255
No Answer 1738
Total 5993

	Numbers	% of those Answering*
Intensive Care	548	12.8
Medical Surgical	2008	47.2
Psychiatry	477	11.2
Obstetrics	678	15.9
Pediatrics	500	11.8
Geriatrics	1346	31.7
Operating Room	291	6.8
Communicable Diseases	234	5.5
Rehabilitation	403	9.3
Outpatient Clinic	249	5.6
Central Supply	160	3.5
Purchasing for Hospitals & Nursing Homes	108	2.5

It is logical to assume since the emphasis of this question was on specialization, that the 1738 who did not answer, as well as the 2008 who checked Medical Surgical are engaged in general bedside nursing. It is evident from the above figures that the total of all LPNs so engaged is more than 80%.

*Totals more than 100% because many LPNs are engaged in more than one field of nursing.

"In your work, are you called upon to administer:---"

Respondents . . . 5837
No Answer 156
Total 5993

	Numbers	% of those Answering*
Enemas	5247	89.8
Irrigations	5034	86.2
Catheterizations	4886	83.7
Nasal & Throat Sprays	4315	73.9
External Applications of Salves, Creams, Ointments	5532	94.8
Injections, subcutaneous and intramuscular	4754	81.4
Routine treatments ordered by MDs	5589	95.8
Oral Medications	4927	84.4
Mix Intravenous solutions	2226	38.1
Do you change surgical dressings	5069	86.8
Do you participate in Heart Monitoring	1393	23.8

*Totals far more than 100% because of the multiple duties of an LPN

"When on duty in a patient's home, do you supervise the selection and preparation of food for your patient?"

Respondents . . . 2033
No Answer 3960
Total 5993

	Numbers	% of those Answering
Yes	1494	73.4
No	539	26.6
	2033	100.0

Answers to a previous question indicate that 1410 LPNs out of 5644 reporting are NOW on "private duty".

Answers to the above question indicate that out of the total of 5993 analyzed questionnaires, 1494 (24.9%) are, from time to time on "private duty", and that 73.4% of them, when on "private duty", do supervise the selection and preparation of their patient's food.

"In what area would you like more training?"

Respondents . . . 5266
No Answer 727
Total 5993

	Numbers	% of those Answering*
Pharmacology	2628	42.3
Mental Health	1925	36.5
Heart & Stroke	1920	36.5
Rehabilitation	1382	26.2
Cancer	1318	26.1
Geriatrics	1144	21.7
Supervision	1136	21.6
Obstetrics	1047	19.8
Organization Management	914	17.3
Pediatrics	674	12.9
Medical-Surgical	70	1.3
Operating Room	24	.4
Intensive Care	21	.4
Laboratory Technician	5	

These answers demonstrate clearly the alertness, the ambition to grow and take on greater responsibilities, and the dedication of all LPNs to their profession.

*Total is more than 100% because of interest in two or more subjects.